

WASHINGTON HOME A SHRINE OF CULTURE, BEAUTY, AND ART



THE WORKING STUDIO.

Paintings, Completed and Incomplete, Strewn About the Room, Attest the Artistic Talent of Mrs. Barney and Her Daughters.



THE RECEPTION ROOM.

Mrs. Barney Prefers, However, to Call It a Studio. To the Right Are Seen Some of the Tapestries for Which the House Is Famous.

In the Residence of Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, on Sheridan Circle, Treasures Have Been Collected From Every Quarter of the Globe.

ONE of the uniquely charming Washington homes is that of Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, on Sheridan Circle. Mrs. Barney calls it her "studio house," and in truth the name is not misplaced. A bright woman who knows says it looks from the outside like a vault and from the inside like a monarch's treasure chamber—and there, too, is a description ready to your hand.

Though, but for the manner in which the entrances are arranged and the windows inserted in the thick walls, there is nothing elaborately vault-like in the house's appearance. It looks externally rather like the ordinary Washington residence of the better class, but inside it is a storehouse of gems of art and beauty collected by Mrs. Barney in every quarter of the globe.

One enters a hallway on the basement floor, where the walls are covered with polished brick, in soft colors, and ascends thence up a broad stairway to the first floor of the house. There the treasures begin to unfold themselves.

Home of Art Treasures.

On this floor are the dining room and drawing room—though it is said Mrs. Barney will not tolerate the latter designation and refers to the great apartment, lined with pictures and draped with tapestries of countless values, as her studio merely. If the designation she adopts be the correct one, it is a studio transfigured and glorified, for though there is on every hand the evidences of work with brush and palette, there is never anything of the disorder with which one is wont to associate the artistic temperament and the place where it builds its shrine.

The room—the whole house, indeed—has been built around Mrs. Barney's art treasures, and the light from the ceiling and from the high-placed windows falls around the room in softest radiance. Each canvas has been placed so that it will receive the light in exactly the proper quantity and direction; no beauty is concealed in darkness or marred by too much illumination; the sun by day and the electric bulbs that at night take its place are made to serve effectively an exact purpose.

Mrs. Barney and her eldest daughter, Miss Natalie Barney, are artists of recognized ability and their own paintings are all about. They form, however, but a small portion of the collection, for Mrs. Barney's search for art treasures has been prosecuted almost unceasingly and for many years in the recognized art centers and along the highways and byways of strange countries. The widow of the late Cincinnati millionaire, Albert Clifford Barney, she has had large means at her disposal and it was never necessary to curb a desire to buy a picture or a piece of tapestry or bric-a-brac by reason of those mean and sordid considerations that come to damp the zeal of other collectors.

Tapestries Chief Pride.

Her tapestries are her special pride. She has studied the subject closely, and with the added insight of a rare artistic intelligence, so that she has become an authority. Not for their beauty, merely, are the great, woven pictures that line her walls entitled to consideration, for there are few in the collection about which some interesting story could not be told. Some are stories of war; there are stories of love and stories of suf-

fering and want; some of the tapestries have been hidden away for a century and brought to light and life only within recent years.

She has a set of priestly vestments that once had a place in the celebration of the religious rites of the Persian fire worshippers. The story has it that they were stolen from the temple by a renegade priest and passed through many hands before they came finally into those of the present owner. There are other curiosities with stories equally interesting. Rare pieces of pottery, queer carvings in ivory and jade, fans that once stirred the air for stately French beauties at the court of the great Louis, curiosities and beauties too numerous to mention.

In the studio one entire end of the room is given up to the display of a single piece of tapestry and the lights have been arranged about it so as to bring out its most striking beauties. Other favorite works of art have been treated with the same affectionate consideration.

The fireplace in the drawing room reaches almost the top of the ceiling. Constructed of colored marble and tiling it catches the eye of the visitor as he enters the room and compels attention and admiration.

Charming Teas Given.

The drawing room has been the scene of numberless studio teas, at which Mrs. Barney, assisted by her two charming daughters, was the hostess. They are all artistic and literary, and the affairs attracted to the quaint house on Sheridan Circle many of the men and women prominent in Washington society, who found these informal and cultured gatherings a never-ending source of delight.

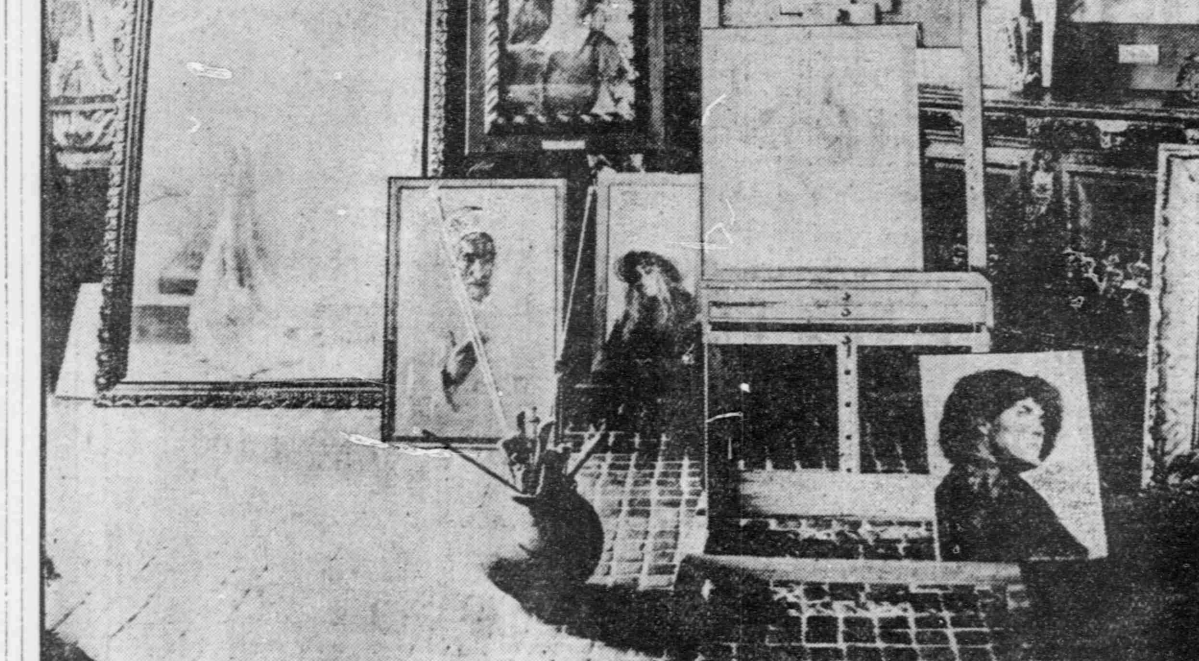
There also Mrs. Barney has given exhibitions of her painting and those of Miss Natalie, which have been no less attractive and no less largely attended. The pictures are never sold and though Mrs. Barney has been generous, and charitable institutions and art galleries have been presented with some of her best work, it is true after all that only in her own home is it possible for the public to become familiar with the paintings of this talented and gifted Washington woman.

The artistic companionship between Mrs. Barney and her elder daughter is one of the delightful features of their home life. The daughter's artistic attainments are not less than those of her mother and their tastes in art run largely in like directions. When they are abroad, as they now are, they rarely fail to make use of their opportunities to take courses of instruction in the ateliers of the masters and it is customary for them to pursue their studies side by side, drawing from the same model and listening to the same criticisms.

A Writer of Plays.

In the Sheridan Circle residence, too, are planned the delightful amateur dramatic productions presented in the city for "sweet charity's sake," shortly after Easter of each year, in which the belles and beaux of social Washington take part, and which have attained the distinction of recognized events.

The last of these productions was "The Dream of Queen Elizabeth," which Mrs. Barney wrote herself, and which was costumed and staged under her direction. It was an extravaganza, elaborate in construction and incident, and the production was on a scale of



Mrs. Barney's Easel, Surrounded by Specimens of Her Work.



The Dining Room.

magnificence unusual among amateurs. Washingtonians will remember the performances at the Lafayette last April and how generous was the meed of praise that Mrs. Barney received.

Miss Natalie Barney inherits her mother's literary ability, and it was rumored last year that one of the plays presented in New York—which achieved at least a temporary success—was from her pen.

The Barneys have some of the harmless little mannerisms of the artistic cult. They affect extremes in dress for one thing, straight lines being abhorrent to them and the curve the only

expression of beauty. They follow out this theory from head to foot and waving hair and waving gowns give them—and they are striking looking women—an appearance a bit out of the ordinary.

Like to Change Names.

Another of the little peculiarities the girls have manifested is a disposition to change their names—their Christian names, that is—whenever they please; as matter of fact both of them have pleased on several occasions. Miss Natalie Barney started out as Alberta, while Miss Laura Barney was first known to Washington society as Alice.

She changed this to Elsa and switched to Laura upon her last return from Europe, something less than a year ago. Miss Laura is now in Acre or somewhere in the East. She went to Acre for the purpose of securing the release from prison of Abdul Beha, to whose teachings she and her mother and sister are converts. Indeed, Abdul, who proclaims himself the Messiah, has been a visitor at the Washington residence of the family.

A few months ago the prophet was thrown into jail at Acre at the instance of the Persian government, on the ground that his teachings were a menace

Talented Mistress of Mansion and Her Daughters Receive in Rooms Strikingly Decorated Washington's Most Gifted Men and Women.

to stable conditions and likely to destroy the peace of the state and interfere with the Mohammedan religion. Miss Barney's purpose was to visit the prophet in his prison cell and to use whatever means money or influence could bring to bear to secure his release. No news has come from the Persian city as to the degree of success that rewarded her special effort.

Add Charm to Life.

But despite such little eccentricities of genius—and genius has always been allowed to be as eccentric as it liked—the Barneys are a delightful addition

to Washington life, and their home a center of culture and warm interest in the higher life. Its art treasures are constant sources of delight to those who have the open sesame to its portals and the company that gathers there on occasion, include the most interesting and characteristic that hold a place in the society of the Nation's Capital.

It has been built as a vault for Mrs. Barney's treasures and it is a measure of her diversified talents that the frame should be so strikingly and well adapted to the composite picture of beauty that it frames.

Man Who Created a Business: He Gives Publicity to Cities

AN engaging Tom Richardson to come from New Orleans to manage its department of civic progress, the Commercial Club of Portland, Ore., has secured the services of a man who has spent his lifetime in the exploitation of cities and States, and, now in the prime of life, stands first in the United States as a specialist in such work.

The son of a merchant, he was born forty-six years ago in Lewis county, Missouri, and attended La Grange College in that county, but did not complete his course. He began work in a store, when he went to the Centennial Exposition in 1876 showed his natural bent by writing letters to his home paper. He gratified his taste for newspaper work by working in several Western cities for several years. In Western Kansas he published the first of a long series of illustrated papers, and thus became interested in the immigration departments of the railroads, which led him into descriptive writing. Then he began organizing commercial bodies in connection with the railroads in Kansas and Colorado.

The first place where Mr. Richardson had a regular position in such work was Pueblo, Colo., which doubled its population in one year. He adopted the plan of corps advertising, sending men all over the country to distribute advertising matter. The purpose was to develop the manufacturing and smelting interests of the town, and the mining interests of Colorado. A mineral palace was built, which is still the handsomest exhibit building in the United States, and has become the center of a large park. He then became associated with a syndicate in the interest of Utah.

By this time the exploitation of cities had become his fixed occupation and he accepted an invitation to Galveston, Tex. From that city he organized the western congress, which held its first meeting there fifteen years ago, and met the next year in Denver. It then became the Transmississippi congress, which has held an annual meeting ever since, and of which Mr. Richardson is vice president. After he had secured an appropriation by Congress of \$6,200,000 in a lump sum to build the Galveston jetties, the influence of the railroads in Kansas, Nebraska, western Arkansas and western Missouri prevented the making of such freight rates to the Gulf ports as would allow the shipment of grain by that route. Therefore, he organized fifteen States and Territories tributary to the Gulf into the deep water utilization committee for the development of the Gulf ports, which has held together just as has the Transmississippi congress.

A similar movement on the same basis led to a convention at Topeka, Kan., which was known as the Western States conference, the expenses being borne by the Gulf port interests. The result of these movements has been that the grain and other products of the central agricultural section have been shipped through the Gulf ports and, as shown by a recent editorial in the

"Oregonian," their percentage of increase is larger than that of any other port in the world.

Mr. Richardson then went to Houston, Tex., where he organized the Business League, which pushed the extension of the city's trade and inaugurated the annual Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Festival. The purpose of this is to diversify the crops of southern Texas and get the people away from cotton, corn and sugar as exclusive crops. Through the active co-operation of all classes of business men in Houston, this has become the most vital and active organization in the South. It takes care of all public events and has organized a successful Mardi Gras, similar to that of New Orleans.

He then retired from this kind of public work and devoted his attention to oil and lumber interests in Texas until the Progressive Union of New Orleans made him an offer two years ago, which he could not afford to decline. Of his work as manager of that organization he said yesterday: "This is a purely popular progressive organization, leaving to the exchanges their special field and devoting itself entirely to the development of New Orleans and the South, being on the same lines as the new organization of the Portland Commercial Club. Its first great effort was to organize special excursions of New Orleans business men throughout the neighboring States. A special train of Pullman cars made a complete tour of Texas and Louisiana, being eleven days on the road. The trip was beneficial, not only in developing trade, but brought the people of the two States closer together."

A constitutional provision in Louisiana exempts factories from taxation until 1910 and this fact was exploited in every possible way. Cards were put in show windows announcing the fact and asking those who cared for further particulars to call on or address the Progressive Union.

The organization went after the stronger conventions, which would bring money and industries, and secured those of the American Bankers' Association and the National Association of Manufacturers and others of equal importance, until the city was overflowing with visitors, and New Orleans has \$3,000,000 either invested or contracted for in additional hotels. The St. Charles built a thirteen-story addition, with the first basement New Orleans ever had. There have been located in New Orleans about 150 new industries and the capital of a number of others has been increased through the efforts of the Progressive Union. Where small industries were wound in the hands of worthy young men, they were put in touch with capital and increased their stock. Factories which could not dispose of their products were put in touch with the jobbers. Where factories or branches of factories could not be located, their owners were induced to create agencies. Delegations from other cities and prominent men were entertained and what they had to say was used to the best advantage throughout the country, especially in their own homes by the sending of clippings from the New Orleans papers, which would be reproduced. A stop was put to the sending of false and alarmist reports about the overflow of the Mississippi River to the newspapers of the country.